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Fuentes Veterans Only Housing Bill Passes out of the State Assembly

AB 1818 would allow for veterans only affordable housing

SACRAMENTO— Assemblymember Felipe Fuentes (D- Sylmar) won approval of a bill that would allow sponsors of supportive housing projects to restrict tenancy to veterans-only, under certain circumstances. The bill is now headed to the Senate.

Currently, the law is unclear about allowing housing providers to restrict occupancy to veterans with special needs. This uncertainty is reinforced by the fact that the Legislature in 2003 passed legislation that allows state funds to be used for shelters and transitional housing, but does not reference permanent supportive housing.

“This bill will help address the challenges to veterans with special needs by providing an alternate housing option. It is my belief that as a result of this legislation we will see more affordable housing developments built in the future specifically for veterans with barriers to employment and reintegration”, said Assemblymember Fuentes.

It is estimated that today in the U.S. there are over 150,000 homeless veterans. Over 50,000 of them are living in the streets of California. “The men and women who have served this country bravely deserve better,” Fuentes said. “They deserve quality supportive services housing accommodations”.

Similar to the general population of homeless adult males, about 45% of homeless veteran suffer from mental illness and slightly more than 70% suffer from alcohol or other drug abuse problems.

AB 1818 is supported by the California Association of Veterans Service Agencies, California State Commanders Veterans Council, New Directions, Century Housing, Housing California, Swords to Plowshares, A Community of Friends, and Tenderloin Neighborhood Development Corporation.

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